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Briton admits spying for the Soviets during WW II

London (UPI)—A wartime military intelligence officer yesterday said that he had spied for the Soviet Union in a ring run by Queen Elizabeth's former art adviser. The disclosure reopened debate about the extent of Moscow's penetration of Britain's secret services.

Leo Long, 64, a retired film company executive, told the Sunday Times that his role in World War II has been known by the government since 1964, when he confessed to espionage

offenses that he admits were "totally treasonable."

Anthony Blunt, the former royal art adviser, confessed to spying the same year and was given immunity from prosecution. He was stripped of his knighthood by Queen Elizabeth after he was publicly unmasked as a traitor in a book published in 1979.

Blunt was thought to be the so-called "fourth man" in the celebrated Burgess-Maclean-Philby Soviet spy

ring. Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean defected to Moscow in 1951 and Kim Philby fled there in 1963 after being tipped that he was about to be exposed.

Earlier this year, Chapman Pincher, a veteran investigative journalist, charged that the late Sir Roger Hollis, head of Britain's MI5 counter-intelligence service from 1956 to 1965, had spied for the Soviets for 30 years.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Hollis had been suspected of being a spy and was twice investigated and cleared of acting as a Soviet agent.

Long said he felt "deep remorse" for his actions and said he had not told even his wife of his spy work until two days ago, when, he later told reporters, he contemplated suicide.

"I quite seriously decided to end it all rather than face the thing," Long said. "But the only thing was that I couldn't leave my wife to face it all alone." ■